

# COUNTY OF KANE

*Christopher J. Lauzen*  
Kane County Board Chairman



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December 8, 2017

**RECEIVED**

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

*Re: Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center, St. Charles (Project 17-057)*

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write to express my strong support for this Certificate of Need application of Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center ("VASC"), which will allow it to relocate to a new building with modern, state-of-the-art design and an improved clinical environment for patients and staff.

For 30 years, VASC has provided outpatient surgical procedures in St. Charles from the same, now outdated building. The facility is sorely in need of repairs and has serious design deficiencies; in short, the building is simply no longer suitable as an ambulatory surgery center. Design flaws in the building make compliance with current codes and best practices extremely difficult and have resulted in citations to the surgery center. Many doors fail to reach ADA requirements, and the building is not handicap-accessible. Additionally, sterile processing work space is not separated into clean and dirty instrument areas, and the loading area is not designed to protect the integrity of medical products.

Furthermore, the building's infrastructure includes serious electrical and plumbing deficiencies, and has not been cabled for modern IT needs. Leaking fire sprinkler lines and a malfunctioning fire alarm system have resulted in recurring false alarms and periodic closures of the facility. The building's layout includes four separate patient areas, resulting in staffing complications and other inefficiencies, and there is inadequate storage space for operating room equipment, soiled linen, and red bag (biohazard) waste. Staff lockers do not connect directly to the sterile corridor, as required to prevent one-way flow of staff from nonsterile to sterile areas of the facility. The exterior of the building requires roofing and foundation repairs, and the design of the main entrance often requires cars to back-up and re-approach when dropping off and picking up patients.

To avoid interruption in patient care for the massive and expensive required repairs, VASC plans to relocate to a new building with less total square footage and a more efficient and modern design. Located only one-quarter mile from the existing facility, VASC's new building will be convenient for patients and staff. The new building will be compliant with current codes and best practices, and will feature a more cost-efficient layout with new mechanical and electrical systems.

Under Illinois Certificate of Need laws, this relocation is treated as a discontinuation of the existing facility and establishment of a new facility, though it will not add any new services or surgical capacity to the service area. Thus, VASC does not anticipate opposition to the project from area health care providers.

VASC has served the residents of Kane County since 1987, and I support its efforts to offer a modern and efficient facility that is consistent with current codes and best practices. The residents of Kane County deserve no less, and I encourage you to approve VASC's applications.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Lauzen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Lauzen  
Kane County Board Chairman